

I currently work for a large engineering firm that uses GPS surveying equipment every day. I have serious concerns regarding the LightSquared versus GPS case. Please consider the following comments prior to making your final decision:

- The counter proposal by LightSquared to use (initially) only the lower band (after the tests showed the upper band causing widespread interference) has NOT BEEN TESTED. There was a limited test of about 40 cell phones with the lower band, and 12% of those experienced significant interference. High precision receivers are even more susceptible to interference than cell phones. This lower band proposal needs to be tested just as vigorously as the upper band.
- Broadband is a good thing. It will boost industry and all of the other cool things; it would be good for surveyors. Just NOT THIS PARTICULAR FLAWED broadband proposal.
- The Broadband for Public Safety Initiative is a separate initiative, in a completely different piece of spectrum. Halting or rethinking this LightSquared proposal will NOT kill the public safety initiative. You would be shocked to find out how many elected folks and their staffers think they are one in the same.
- The 2003 authorization for LightSquared to do very limited terrestrial in the satellite band was MUCH less hazardous than the current modification plan. It was for terrestrial to augment satellite communications where satellites could not do it alone, NOT for a primarily huge powered terrestrial augmented by very little satellite. The claim is that GPS knew about the 2003 plan, and did nothing about it. No comparison; it is like your neighbor asking if he could park a bicycle on the lawn between the driveways and then one morning you find an M1 Abrams tank there.
- Survey GPS gear is not obsolete, and the manufacturers designed them to fully deal with the satellite bands, even with the lil' ol' 2003 authorization in mind. The gear would only be obsolete if this huge modification is approved.
- So much of the modified proposal counts on technological solutions that do not even exist yet (even in the laboratory). If it is so easy to filter out the signals, then why could no one find any to test?
- The U.S. looks at other countries that have widespread broadband at higher speeds and at much lower costs with envy. Now how did these countries succeed in providing such great broadband without killing GPS?
- What a sad legacy if high precision GPS works everywhere else in the world EXCEPT in the United States. Didn't we pioneer, design, build, pay for, and continue to operate this wonderful system? There will be high precision GPS in Syria, Libya, Iran, Pakistan, etc... everywhere but here.
- Jobs that will be exported to other countries with other constellations as they accept this "gift" of exclusivity in high precision GNSS.
- Supposedly, the counter proposal would only affect 0.5% of GPS end users. Bummer is that it represents about 40% of all of the economic value of GPS; billions and billions.
- Who do we send an invoice to for the gear we will have to replace? (Even if gear could be designed to deal with the interference). And how about lost productivity costs, and lost jobs in the years it will take to redesign and retool.